

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 1517, To allow certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees who serve under an overseas limited appointment for at least 2 years, and whose service is rated fully successful or higher throughout that time, to be converted to a permanent appointment in the competitive service; H.R. 1726, amended, Border Security Search Accountability Act of 2009; and H.R. 3239, amended, To require the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to submit a report on the effects of the Merida initiative on the border security of the United States.

**AUTO INDUSTRY BANKRUPTCIES
RAMIFICATIONS**

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law continued hearings on Ramifications of the Auto Industry Bankruptcies, Part III. Testimony was heard from Louann Van Der Wiele, Vice President and Associate General Counsel, Chrysler Group LLC; Michael J. Robinson, Vice-President and General Counsel of North America, General Motors Company; Richard E. Mourdock, Treasurer, State of Indiana; and public witnesses.

**FAIRNESS IN COCAINE SENTENCING ACT
OF 2009; OVER-FEDERALIZATION OF
CRIMINAL LAW**

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security approved for full Committee action H.R. 3245 Fairness in Cocaine Sentencing Act of 2009.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on Over-Criminalization of Conduct/Over-Federalization of Criminal Law. Testimony was heard from Richard Thornburgh, former Attorney General; and public witnesses.

PUERTO-RICAN DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2009

Committee on Natural Resources: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 2499, Puerto Rico Democracy Act of 2009.

CONSUMER DEBT ARBITRATION

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Domestic Policy held a hearing entitled "Arbitration or 'Arbitrary': The Misuse of Mandatory Arbitration to Collect Consumer Debts." Testimony was heard from Lori Swanson, Attorney General, State of Minnesota; and public witnesses.

**TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010**

The Committee on Rules: granted, by a record vote of 7 to 2, a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3288, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read through page 160, line 6. The rule waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule makes in order the following amendments; (1) the amendments printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules; (2) not to exceed seven of the amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report if offered by Representative Flake of Arizona or his designee; and (3) not to exceed two of the amendments printed in part C of the Committee report if offered by Representative Hensarling of Texas or his designee. The rule provides that each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule provides that the proponent of any such amendment may modify its amendatory instructions. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI.

The rule provides that for those amendments reported from the Committee of the Whole, the question of their adoption shall be put to the House en gros and without demand for division of the question. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The rule provides that after disposition of the amendments specified in the first section of the rule, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees each may offer one pro forma amendment to the bill for the purpose of debate, which shall be controlled by the proponent. The rule provides that the Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee and that the Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 9 of rule XVIII). The